



APRIL, 1921.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The Execution of the Assembly Resolutions.

The full scope of what may be called the regular work of the League of Nations as differentiated from its special emergency duties has now been fully outlined by the meetings of the First Assembly of the League held at Geneva from November 15th to December 18th 1920, and the Twelfth Session of the Council held at Paris from February 21st to March 4th, 1921.

The former drew together for the first time the forty-one States then Members of the League, surveyed the work of the first nine months of the League, and laid down the broad lines to be followed during the coming year. The latter, while continuing the regular work of the League, laid out detailed plans for the execution of the decisions taken by the Assembly, and set in motion the necessary preparatory work for the second Assembly next September.

A brief summary of the work done at the two meetings will therefore show exactly what the actual organization and work of the League is to-day, and what its specific tasks for the coming year will be. It will also show the broad lines of development of the League as well as the complementary relationship of the Council and the Assembly. In the following statement, therefore, the work of the two bodies will be intertwined wherever they have been working in the same field.

The Assembly, it will be remembered, opened its first session on November 15th at Geneva, the Seat of the League, when forty-one nations met under a written Constitution for the first time in history and a dozen other nations requesting admission to the League had representatives in Geneva. The meeting covered a period of thirty-five days, during which thirty-one public sessions and some fifty committee meetings were held.

The Council meeting at Paris from February 21st to March 4th was, on the other hand, the twelfth meeting of that body. For the first time, however, a non-European, M. da Cunha, of Brazil, was named as President on the new principle of rotation in that office, while China also took her seat for the first time, following her selection by the Assembly. The Council therefore consisted of four former European Allies - Great Britain, France, Italy, and Belgium; one European Neutral - Spain; and three non-European States - Japan, Brazil and China. Also for the first time Austria sat on the Council during discussion of her dispute with Poland, while Poland, Lithuania, and Switzerland also took part at various times.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

The first task before the Assembly was its own organisation. M. Paul Hymans, of Belgium, was elected President, and M. Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, Honorary President. In addition, a bureau of twelve vice-presidents to serve as the directing body of the Assembly was named, the first six by virtue of their election as chairman of one of the main Committees, and the second six holding office by general election.

The two lists follow:

1st Committee	The Right Hon. A.J. Balfour, Great Britain;
2nd Committee	H E. Tommaso Tittoni, Italy;
3rd Committee	H.E. M. Léon Bourgeois, France;
4th Committee	H.E. M. Quinones de Leon, Spain;
5th Committee	Senor Don Antonio Huneeus, Chile;
6th Committee	H.E. M. Branting, Sweden.

Viscount Ishii, Japan;

M. Jonkheer van Karnebeek, the Netherlands;

H.E. Dr. Honorio Pueyrredon, the Argentine, who was replaced on 11th December, 1920, by

M. Blanco, Uruguay, following the withdrawal of the Argentine Delegation;

H.E. Dr. Edouard Benes, Czecho-Slovakia;

Sir George Foster, Canada;

H.E. Dr Rodrigo Octavio Langaard de Menezes, Brazil.

COMMITTEES.

The work facing the Assembly was so very extended that it was necessary to divide it under six main headings over each of which was appointed a committee consisting of one representative from each nation. These committees, which were in turn divided into sub-committees, covered the following fields:

1. General Procedure and Amendments.
2. Technical Organisations.
3. Permanent Court of International Justice.
4. Secretariat and Budget.
5. Applications for Admission.
6. Disarmament, Mandates and Economic Blockade.

PROCEDURE.

As this was the first meeting of the Assembly, considerable time and thought which will not again be necessary had to be devoted to drawing up the rules of procedure. These rules contain twenty-five articles, the most important of which incorporates a suggested Scandinavian amendment to the Covenant that the Assembly meet automatically once a year on the first Monday in September.

ADMISSIONS.

Six new Members were admitted to the League by the Assembly by at least thirty-five votes and in all cases without dissentient voice: Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Luxemburg, Costa Rica and Albania. The evidence showed that they had recognised frontiers, a stable government, and a not over-large army, and that they had given proof of their intention to live up to their international engagements.

Four other States formerly part of the Russian Empire - Esthonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Georgia, while not admitted to membership because of unsettled frontiers, unrecognised governments, or unstable conditions near by, were nevertheless given the right to representation in the technical organisations of the League as proof of the League's intention to admit them at the earliest possible moment.

While Armenia was not admitted to membership on account of the very difficult situation in which she finds herself, a resolution was unanimously passed expressing the hope "that the efforts of the President of the United States, energetically supported by the Governments of Spain and Brazil and by the Council of the League, will result in the preservation of the Armenian race and in securing for Armenia a stable government, exercising authority throughout the whole of the Armenian State as the boundaries thereof may be finally settled under the Treaty of Sèvres, so that the Assembly may be able to admit Armenia into full membership in the League at its next meeting."

Azerbaidjan, the Ukraine and Lichtenstein were not admitted.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT.

The Secretary-General presented to the Assembly a very detailed report of all the activities of the League not elsewhere reported on since the Covenant became effective on January 10th, 1920. This report brought forth a debate on the attitude of the Council towards the Polish-Russian situation. A similar report will be submitted to each following Assembly.

ASSEMBLY AND COUNCIL.

The very complex relationship of the Assembly and the Council which is not clearly defined by the Covenant formed the basis of a long analytical report which the Assembly unanimously adopted. While leaving each body supreme in such matters as are especially assigned to it in the Covenant or the Treaties, it lays down the general understanding that if one body is dealing with a subject, the other will not interfere with it.

NON-PERMANENT COUNCIL MEMBERS.

The method of selection of the four non-permanent members of the Council, which is not provided for in the Covenant, was discussed by the Assembly from two different view-points: one, that one Assembly could not bind its successors by any kind of restrictions, and the other that the spirit of the Covenant demanded a somewhat automatic system which would assure a fair distribution by political and geographical areas and a certain rotation in office. The Assembly, after considerable discussion, decided to leave the question of principle open for further discussion and elected for one year only, Spain, Brazil, Belgium and China.

AMENDMENTS.

Several amendments to the Covenant were introduced at the first Assembly, the Scandinavian countries wishing to amplify the Covenant as regards the annual meeting of the Assembly, the method of selection of the non-permanent Council members, the economic blockade and arbitration, while Canada requested the elimination of Article 10, and the Argentine desired the admission of all sovereign States. As the League had been in operation less than a year, however, it was agreed not to discuss these amendments at once but to ask the Council to constitute a special Amendments Committee to study them and any other suggestions during the coming year in the light of further experience and to report in detail to the Assembly next September. At its Paris meeting the Council accordingly appointed a Committee of eleven members to consider all the amendments hitherto proposed and any further amendments which may come before it. This Committee, which will submit its report to the Council on June 1st, 1921, at the latest, comprises:-

Mr. Balfour (President)	Great Britain.
M. Viviani	France.
M. Scialoja	Italy.
M. Blanco	Uruguay.
M. Benes	Czecho-Slovakia.
M. Joaquin Fernandes Prido	Spain.
M. Zahle	Denmark.
M. Wang Chung Hui	China.
M. Hatoyama	Japan.
M. Restrepo	Colombia.

REGISTRATION OF TREATIES.

The Assembly discussed several points relating to the exact scope of Article 18 of the Covenant, which refers to the Registration of Treaties. The suggestion was raised that the terms of this Article did not specify in sufficiently exact detail what were the intentions of the Covenant in this respect from the League point of view, and the Assembly therefore suggested that a Committee should be appointed to study this question with a view to obtaining a uniform application of the Article. In pursuance of that proposal, the Council appointed the following Committee to report by the next Assembly:

M. Vittorio Scialoja	Italy
M. Bourguin	Belgium
M. Raoul Fernandes	Brazil
M. Henri Fromageot	France
Sir Cecil Hurst	Great Britain
M. A.A.H. Struycken	Netherlands

ECONOMIC BLOCKADE.

Detailed principles for the application of Article 16 providing for an economic blockade against covenant-breaking States were laid down in an Assembly Committee report, but so many questions arose as to the moment when the blockade should come into operation, as to the exact method of application in various cases, and as to the limited blockade suggested by the Scandinavian countries, that the Council was asked to appoint an International Blockade Commission to report through the Council to the next Assembly.

It was suggested that the Commission should consist of a maximum of eight members, of whom four might belong to States permanently represented on the Council.

In respect to the other members, the Council, when the matter came before them in Paris, considered that it was rather by consideration of a geographical nature that their choice should be guided, having regard to the different aspects which the blockade principle may assume in relation to the geographical situation in any country. The Commission will have to present its report at the latest during the month of August, so that the Council may be able to consider it before presenting it, with any necessary comments, to the Assembly. Pending the completion of the work of the Commission, the Secretary-General was requested to ascertain from States Members of the League what measures they are now in a position to take if required for the purpose of applying the principles laid down in Article 16 of the Covenant.

The Council decided to ask the Governments of Cuba, Spain, Norway and Switzerland to appoint representatives to form this International Blockade Commission and empowered it to refer any special questions to the Provisional Economic and Financial Committee, to the Permanent Advisory Commission on Military, Naval and Air questions, to legal experts and to any other organisations belonging to the League of Nations.

ARMAMENTS.

The subject of armaments was considered both by the Assembly and the Council, and some important steps were initiated. The question was approached by the Assembly from the view-point that progress must be effected in three successive stages, first by general agreement amongst Members of the League not to exceed their present scale of armaments save at the request of the League or in circumstances recognised as exceptional; second, by general agreement for a proportionate and simultaneous reduction in the scale of armaments or in the existing military budgets; and third, by the acceptance of disarmament, by which would be meant a scientific and comprehensive re-

duction of armaments to the least figure compatible with national security. Essential to these plans are the execution of the disarmament clauses of the Peace Treaty and the collaboration of other great military Powers which have hitherto remained outside the League.

Accordingly, with the view of preventing increases in armaments, a recommendation was adopted by thirty votes to seven requesting the Council to submit for the consideration of the Members of the League the acceptance of an undertaking not to exceed the current military Budget during the next two years unless required to do so by recommendation of the League or by exceptional conditions notified to the League.

Moreover, in order to take the first steps towards a reduction in armaments, the Council was asked to request the Permanent Military, Naval, and Air Commission to complete its technical examination into the present condition of armaments; to instruct a temporary Commission composed of persons with requisite competence in political, social, and economic matters to submit proposals for the reduction of armaments; to form within the Secretariat a Section for this Commission and for the publication and exchange of information as provided in the Covenant; and to consider the means by which military information so exchanged may be verified, if the principle of mutual verification is confirmed by an amendment to the Covenant.

In view also of the fact that the Covenant formally denounces the evil effects of the private manufacture of munitions and war material, the Assembly requested the Council to initiate the immediate investigation of this problem through its technical Commissions and to consider whether the contemplated International Office of Control for the Traffic in Armaments could not co-operate to this end.

The Council acted upon all these suggestions. It was decided to create a temporary Commission including persons qualified in matters of a political, social and economic nature, as well as those more closely concerned in the purely technical side of the subject. With the object of securing examination of the problem from these various angles of public life, it was resolved that the temporary Commission should comprise:

Six persons of recognised competence in political questions, namely:-

M. Viviani (President)	France.
Mr. Fisher	Great Britain.
M. Orlando	Italy.
M. Branting	Sweden.
M. Rivas Vicuna	Chile.
M. Tatsuke	Japan.

Six members of the Permanent Advisory Commission for Military, Naval and Air questions;

Four members of the Provisional Economic and Financial Commission;

Six members of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, of whom three are to be employers' representatives and three workmen's representatives.

This plan prevents any overlapping of work, and it brings together a very strongly equipped body of representative men to their particular spheres of action.

The Council also initiated the other investigations. The temporary Commission and the Permanent Advisory Commission are to collaborate in the study of the question of the private manufacture of munitions, and report to the Council.

The Advisory Commission has already reached a number of conclusions which have been approved by the Council on subjects relating to the exchange of complete military information between States Members of the League and to measures preparatory to the exercise of the right of investigation over armaments. The whole subject is one of extensive study and progressive solution.

The Council has asked the Commission to continue its labours on those and cognate questions, and has submitted to it, also, the study of methods by which military information exchanged between the Members of the League may be verified. This was suggested by the Assembly, but verification is not provided for in the Covenant and could only be rendered admissible by an amendment of the Covenant.

TRADE IN ARMS.

For the purpose of preventing the large stocks of arms and ammunition accumulated in the recent war from becoming a source of danger to the world through an extended sale throughout less-civilised areas in Asia and Africa, the Assembly declared " its high sense of the gain to civilisation which would ensue from a strict control of this traffic" and invited the Council to urge upon all Governments the immediate approval of the Convention of St. Germain for the Control of the Trade in Arms and Ammunition, which has not yet been ratified.

In September 1919, a certain number of Powers signed at St. Germain a Convention relating to the Control of the Trade in Arms and Ammunition.

This Convention is not yet ratified, and the Council at its Paris meeting, considering that strict supervision of the trade in arms would be of great advantage to civilisation, decided to ask all the States which were signatories to the Convention to ratify it without delay. It decided at the same time to ask States which have not signed the Convention if they are ready to sign and ratify within the same periods as the other States. The Convention of St. Germain, amongst other things, provided that the International Office, instructed to co-operate in the carrying out of certain of these measures, should be placed under the authority of the League of Nations. There is already at Brussels an office administered by the Belgian Government which fulfils those functions in relation to the Convention of July 1890, and the Council decided to ask the Belgian Government's consent to make use, for the time being, of this organisation which would assume provisionally on behalf of the League the rôle defined by the Convention of St. Germain and would be asked to send every three months to Geneva a detailed report to the Permanent Advisory Commission; this Commission would publish the report with any appropriate comments.

BUDGETS.

The Budget of the League for 1921 for a total of 21 million gold francs, including the seven millions appropriated for the Labour Office, was approved by the Assembly, together with the two previous Budgets. A recommendation was passed to the effect that the Assembly request the Members of the League to take the necessary measures to ensure payment of their contributions at the earliest possible date and in any case to notify the Secretariat by January 1st next on what date payment may be expected. A series of principles was agreed to the effect that three months before each Assembly the Secretary-General should submit to the Council a general draft Budget for the following year, which should be at once communicated to each Member of the League, and that the Council at least one month before each Assembly should see that the Budget as approved by it is in the hands of all Members of the League. Similarly, at the beginning of each year, the accounts of the League shall be audited by a Government chosen by the Council and a report circulated to all Members of the League three months before each Assembly. The Council was requested to appoint a small expert Committee to investigate the organisation, methods of work, efficiency, number, salaries and allowances of the Secretariat

and the Labour Organisation, and to have the report in the hands of all members of the League by June 1st next.

The Council appointed	M. Noblemaire	French.
	M. Bellotti	Italian.
	M. Figueras	Spain.
	M. Villanueva	Nicaragua.

and a member of the British Treasury (whose name will be announced later) as members of this Commission.

SECRETARIAT.

At the same time the organisation of the Secretariat as carried out by the Council and the Secretary-General was approved by the Assembly with the recommendations that members of the Secretariat and of the Labour Office appointed for five years or more have the right of appeal to the Council if dismissed, that a list of the staff showing nationalities, salaries and allowances by classes be published yearly, and that information regarding vacancies be given wide publicity.

PASSPORTS.

The Assembly resolved that, while a special international passport would not be recommended for officials of the League and the Secretariat, they should, on presentation of an identity card provided by the Secretary-General, be given diplomatic passports by the diplomatic or consular agent at Geneva of the country of which they are nationals, in order to assure them while on official mission the benefits and immunities provided in Article 7 of the Covenant.

ALLOCATION.

The allocation of these expenses amongst the Members of the League on the basis of the International Postal Union as provided for in the Covenant was accepted as being unsatisfactory, and while the existing allocation must be observed for the year 1920, the Assembly requested the Council to appoint immediately a special Committee of five, including the Swiss delegate to the International Postal Union, to attempt to arrive at a more equitable scheme. This Committee was directed to send to the Council, not later than March 31st, its report, which is to be immediately circulated to Members of the League; and, if not accepted by all Members, the question shall be placed on the agenda of the 1921 meeting, it being understood that any Members which may have contributed this year a disproportionate share according to the new schedule shall pay a correspondingly less amount next year.

TECHNICAL ORGANISATIONS.

Three so-called technical organisations were created by the Assembly to deal with questions of health, transit, and economics and finance. They are to be autonomous in internal matters, but subject to the Council or Assembly in matters of broad policy. The Transit and Economic and Finance Organisations have already held important conferences.

ECONOMICS AND FINANCE.

The Advisory Economic and Financial Committee, which replaces the existing provisional Committee, is directed to consider the immediate application of the Brussels Conference recommendations by all Governments as essential to the economic restoration of the world; to prepare the agenda for the next International Conference which the Council has been given authority to summon when it deems necessary; and to examine any economic and financial problems which may be submitted to it by the Council. A special resolution was adopted

urging all nations to carry out the principles laid down by the Brussels Conference, especially that all national wealth should be employed in strictly productive channels.

TRANSIT.

A General Conference on Freedom of Communications and Transit was summoned for Barcelona in March, in order to consider the whole transport part of the economic problem and to draw up the agreements necessitated by Article 23 of the Covenant and the various Peace Treaties as regards freedom of communications and transit together with the General Convention on the international regime of ports, waterways and railways, and to organise an Advisory Committee which shall carry on all questions of this sort after the Barcelona meeting and arrange for any future conferences necessary. This Conference has now been held.

HEALTH ORGANISATION.

An International Health Organisation has been created to co-ordinate the various existing international health organisations, to bring the health authorities in various countries into closer contact, to co-operate with the International Labour Organisation, the Red Cross and other bodies, to organise a more rapid interchange of information, to hasten action in cases of epidemics, and to prepare international health conventions. The Office international d'Hygiène publique in Paris shall form the foundation of the new organisation. In addition, the General Committee shall comprise Members of the League of Nations which are not members of the Office, a Standing Committee, a Medical Secretary, and personnel of the League, the last-named sitting at Geneva.

COURT.

The draft Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice as originally prepared by the Jurists Committee at The Hague and amended by the Council at Brussels was unanimously adopted by the Assembly with but slight modifications. This action means that the Statute of the Court as now approved is final, that States subscribe to it as it stands, that the cost of the Court will be paid for out of the League Treasury, and that the Members of the League, whether or not they subscribe to the project, have both the right and the obligation to take part in the organisation of the Court as soon as it has been put into operation by the ratification by the majority of the Members.

Though many members of the Assembly felt that that body had authority to bring the Court into being by unanimous resolution, it was finally decided to request the Council to submit the Statute "within the shortest possible time" to the Members of the League for adoption in the form of a protocol. The form of the Protocol of Signature was approved by the Council on the following day and immediately opened for signature with the provision that the Court shall come into being as soon as a majority of the Members have ratified.

The Court is to sit permanently at The Hague and to consist of eleven judges chosen for a period of nine years. The hitherto insoluble problem of the method of selecting the judges is overcome by having the Assembly and the Council of the League vote separately on a list of candidates prepared mainly by the Hague Court of Arbitral Justice, those names selected by both bodies to be declared elected. After the most fundamental argument, the proposal to give the Court the power of obligatory adjudication in a limited classification of purely legal cases failed of unanimous approval, but a supplementary protocol was adopted and immediately opened for signature whereby those nations so desiring may accept this principle either for the four classifications in Article 13 of the Covenant or in a more limited way.

It was reported to the Council in February that 27 Members of the League had signed the Protocol of Signature of the Statute of the Permanent

Court of International Justice, and that seven States had signed the optional clause concerning the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court. So far, however, only Sweden had deposited her ratification with the Secretariat, and before the Court can be constituted the Statute must be ratified by a majority of the Members of the League. The Council therefore requested the Secretary-General to send out a pressing appeal for ratification. Should the Statute be not ratified by the necessary 24 Members of the League by April 1st, the Secretary-General has been authorised to take steps, if necessary, on or after that date, to obtain the conditional nomination of candidates for posts as judges. It is necessary that some such action should be taken if the judges are to be elected by the next Assembly meeting, so that the Court may be established at the beginning of next year.

MANDATES AND AMERICA.

The subject of mandates occupied the close attention of both the Assembly and the Council and when the question came before the Council in Paris the position was that the "C" Mandates (relating to the former German Colonies in the Pacific and South West Africa) had already been approved and that Mandates "A" (relating to certain regions formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire) and Mandates "B" (relating to Central African regions) had still to be considered.

With regard to "A" Mandates, the Council decided, at the request of Mr. Balfour (on behalf of Great Britain), that the examination of the terms should be postponed till next session. The reconsideration of the Treaty of Sèvres at the London Conference rendered this postponement necessary.

During the course of the session the League received from the Government of the United States an important Note, in which it asserted that the approval of that Government was essential to the validity of any determinations which might be reached on Mandates, and asked for publicity for the drafts so that the fullest opportunity might be given to the consideration of the subject. It referred the Council to the Notes that had also been despatched by the United States Government to the British, French and Italian Governments on the same subject, with special reference to "A" Mandates. The United States pointed out that in regard to "C" Mandates, it had never given its consent to the inclusion of the Island of Yap in any proposed Mandate to Japan. The island constituted an indispensable part of any scheme or practicable arrangement of cable communication in the Pacific, and its free and unhampered use should not be limited or controlled by any one Power. The United States Government therefore did not consider itself bound by the terms of the Mandate, and recorded its protest against the decision of the Council in December last approving of the Mandate. It requested the Council to reopen the question for further consideration which the proper settlement of it clearly required.

The Council, in its reply to this Note, summarised what it regarded as the main points in the attitude of the United States as follows:-

(1) That the United States must be consulted before any Mandates are allotted or defined, and that the frankest discussion should be encouraged;

(2) Exception is taken, with regard to "A" Mandates, to the possible limitation of commercial opportunity as regards oil in Mesopotamia;

(3) In the "C" Mandates exception is taken to the allocation of the Island of Yap to Japan.

The Council expressed its deep satisfaction at the interest shown by the United States Government in this question, and not only welcomed, but felt justified in claiming the sympathy and support of the Governments which devised the scheme that the Council was required to administer. The Council

declared that the rights which the United States acquired as one of the leading actors both in the war and in the negotiations for peace were not likely to be challenged in any quarter; but the situation was complicated by the fact that the United States had so far abstained from ratifying the Peace Treaty and had not taken her seat on the Council of the League. The Council desired to examine the subject on the broad basis of international co-operation and friendship, and had taken several decisions which it hoped would commend themselves to the American Government. Before the receipt of the American Note, the Council had already determined to postpone the consideration of "A" Mandates over former Turkish possessions including Mesopotamia, and in view of the desire expressed by the United States it was deferring the consideration of the "B" Mandates until the next session, which would probably take place in May or June.

The Council invited the United States to take part in the discussions at its forthcoming meeting, when the final decisions as to the "A" and "B" Mandates would, it was hoped, be taken.

Regarding the "C" Mandates, the Council had not the same liberty of action as in the "A" and "B" types. The allocation of the mandated territories was a function of the Supreme Council and not of the Council of the League. The League was concerned not with the allocation but with the administration of these territories, and having been notified in the name of the Allied and Associated Powers that all the islands north of the Equator had been allotted to Japan, the Council of the League had merely fulfilled its responsibility to define the terms of the Mandates; consequently, if any misunderstanding existed as to the allocation of the Island of Yap, that misunderstanding would seem to be between the United States and the principal Allied Powers rather than between the United States and the League. However, in view of the American contention, the Council had hastened to forward the American Note to the Governments of Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan. The Council hoped that these explanations would prove satisfactory and that reciprocal good-will would find a solution in harmony with the generous spirit which inspired the principle of Mandates.

PERMANENT MANDATES COMMISSION.

The Council decided to invite the following to be members of the Permanent Mandates Commission provided for in the Covenant "to receive and examine the annual reports of the Mandatories and to advise the Council on all matters relating to the observance of the Mandates":

M. Beau	French
Madame Bugge Wicksell	Swedish
Mr. Cameron Forbes	American
M. D'Andrade	Portuguese
Mr. Ormsby-Gore	British
M. Orts	Belgian
M. Theolodi	Italian
M. Van Rees	Dutch

A further representative is still to be named.

This Commission is set up in conformity with the previous decision of the Council that it should consist of nine members, the majority of whom should be nationals of non-mandatory Powers. The various members do not in any sense act as representatives of the Governments of which they are nationals; the constitution provides that "all members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Council and selected for their personal merits and competence. They shall not hold any office which puts them in a position of direct dependence on their Governments while members of the Commission."

ARMENIA.

The Armenian tragedy, though not on the agenda, was brought before the Assembly, which passed a resolution, first, requesting the Council

to approach the nations of the world to bring hostilities there to an end and, second, creating from its own members a Committee of six to investigate the situation. As a result of the Council invitation, the United States, Spain and Brazil agreed to use their best offices to end the Armenian horrors.

A report was laid before the Council on the development in the Armenian situation since the Resolution of the Assembly. Reference was made to the change which had taken place and to the Conference in London with regard to the Treaty of Sèvres. The Council would only be able to consider effective means for supporting Armenia if the situation with regard to this Treaty and its application had been cleared up. The Council therefore decided to send a letter to the British, French and Italian Governments pointing out the changes in the situation and stating that the Conference in London created a new situation of which the Council must be kept informed if it was to carry out the wishes of the Assembly. The Council added that it could not, without consulting these Governments, determine its sphere of action, and it stated that it was prepared to enter into any exchange of views which might be considered advisable in order that the Council might carry out to the best of its ability the task which had been entrusted to it.

POLISH-LITHUANIAN DISPUTE.

The Council had to consider the Polish-Lithuanian dispute regarding the Vilna territory. It had been agreed with the consent of Poland and Lithuania to hold a plebiscite, but this has not yet taken place owing to the difficulties which have resulted from the attitude of the two interested parties.

Poland has been very slow in agreeing to the Council's demand to withdraw the troops of General Zeligowski from the disputed territory.

Lithuania, on the other hand, has continually raised objections to the form of the plebiscite as well as to the presence of an International Army in Vilna, which, according to the Kovno Government, would create serious difficulties with the Soviet Government.

In view of these facts, the Council had to consider whether both parties really wanted the plebiscite to take place, and if not, whether another solution would be more practicable. The Council finally invited the Polish and Lithuanian Governments to examine the possibility of settling the dispute by direct negotiations. If both Governments consented, the Council proposed that these negotiations should start within a month at Brussels under the presidency of M. Hymans, the Belgian representative on the Council of the League. In this case it is not necessary to send an international contingent on behalf of the League of Nations, but as order must be kept in the disputed area, the Council invites the Polish Government to reduce General Zeligowski's army to a maximum of 15,000 men, a number which would be sufficient for the purpose without being strong enough for action of an aggressive character, and to make it part of the Polish regular army. On the other hand, the Lithuanians are invited to withdraw their troops to the interior of the country, leaving only two divisions to cover the demarcation line. The Lithuanian Government would have to look after the necessary food supplies of the civilian population, the food to be distributed under the control of the League of Nations Commission. Finally, the present Governing Administration ought to be maintained and no elections should take place before the signature of a definite convention.

The Polish and Lithuanian delegations undertook to transmit this proposition to their respective Governments and to obtain a reply before March 14th.

TYPHUS IN POLAND.

The plans previously undertaken by the Council against Typhus in Poland were approved by the Assembly and it was declared "imperatively necessary" to inaugurate them at once with what funds are available. During the

session the following contributions, were announced, in some cases with the removal of the conditions which had been placed upon them:

France (on condition that 3 other countries subscribe a like amount).	£50,000
Great Britain (on condition that 3 other countries subscribe a like amount).	£50,000
Canada	\$200,000
Spain (conditional)	£40,000
Belgium	£1,000
Greece	£10,000
Persia	£2,000
China	£2,000
Bulgaria	£27
Siam	£ 1,00 0
Germany	1,000,000 paper marks.
Australia	100,000 kronen.
Holland (an initial payment when Great Britain has also contributed her initial payment).	100,000 florins.
Japan	100,000 francs.
Switzerland	50,000 francs.

Furthermore, the sending of "an urgent and immediate appeal to all the countries of the world for an adequate fund for prosecuting an effective campaign against epidemic disease in Eastern Europe, beginning with Poland as a centre" was unanimously approved. The President was empowered to nominate a Committee of not more than three Assembly delegates to take steps to obtain the necessary funds during the session of the Assembly, and the Office international d'Hygiène publique, and the Comité international de la Croix-Rouge were asked to co-operate, and the League of Red Cross Societies requested to continue to give its assistance.

TRAFFIC IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The facts as to the international traffic in women and children are to be investigated through a questionnaire sent by the Secretariat to all Governments asking what legislative measures they have taken to combat this traffic and what additional measures they propose in the future. The Governments signatory and adherent to the Conventions of 1904 and 1910 are to be immediately urged to put these Conventions into operation and the Council is to be requested to invite those countries to an International Conference to be held before the next Assembly in order to co-ordinate the replies to the questionnaire and to prepare an understanding for united action.

These steps have been taken by the Council, and the signatories of the Conventions and any other Governments willing to take part are to be invited to send representatives to an International Conference in Geneva during the last week in June.

OPIUM.

Supervision of the execution of agreements as to the traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs has, in agreement with the Netherlands Government, been transferred from that Government to the League. To this end, the Secretariat is directed to gather all data regarding their production, distribution and consumption, and an Advisory Committee is to be appointed by the

Council from the countries especially interested, assisted by representatives of certain States, like the United States, not members of the League and by not over three individuals especially qualified, this Committee to report to the Council three months before each Assembly meeting.

The Council decided to appoint a Consultative Commission on Opium Traffic consisting of representatives of the eight countries signatories of the Opium Convention, namely:- Holland, Great Britain, France, India, Japan, China, Siam, and Portugal. This Commission will also include three assessors nominated for two years. These three specialists elected by the Council are:-

SIR JOHN JORDAN	(English)
M. HENRI BRENIER	(French)
MRS. HAMILTON WRIGHT	(American)

The Commission is to be requested to meet if possible at the beginning of May and to submit to the Council not later than June 1st a report on the execution of agreements relating to the traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs.

DEPORTATION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN TURKEY AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

With regard to the Assembly's invitation to the Council to appoint a special Commission of Enquiry into the deportation of women and children still continuing in Turkey and adjacent countries, the Council considered that the existing situation in that part of the world was such that the appointment and despatch of a Commission of Enquiry could not offer any great advantages at the present moment. The Council meanwhile decided to collect all the information it possibly could and to request the Governments of the respective Members of the Council to assist with this effort in order that a programme of action might be put in execution whenever it might become possible to do so.

SAAR BASIN GOVERNING COMMISSION AND DANZIG.

Various matters came before the Council regarding the two important administrative functions which were imposed upon it by the Peace Treaties. They re-elected the four members of the Saar Basin Governing Commission with M. Rault (French) as President, in order that continuity might be observed in the early stages of the Commission's important task. They thanked the Commission for the way in which it had carried out its duties hitherto.

The Council elected Colonel Reynier (Swiss) President of the Danzig Harbour Board. It decided to refuse consent to the request of the President of the Senate of Danzig for authorisation for the manufacture of 50,000 rifles for Peru. It also examined several points regarding the constitution of Danzig, principally for the purpose of securing that the Senate should be more completely responsible to the people. The High Commissioner was requested to consult public opinion of the Free City and to report to the Council.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

A long and detailed report on the repatriation of prisoners of war, directed on behalf of the League of Nations by Dr. Nansen, was presented to the Council, bringing up to date the facts presented to the Assembly by Dr. Nansen. While noting the great results which have been obtained, the report emphasised the necessity of securing as quickly as possible the necessary contributions to continue the work undertaken. Up to the present 280,000 prisoners of all nationalities had been repatriated by the Baltic route and thousands of others had been repatriated by the Black Sea and Vladivostock. If the work was to be completed, additional expense would be involved, and the Council decided to transmit the report to the Governments interested, expressing the hope that they would take the conclusions into consideration.

PUBLICITY.

The arrangements of the Council for publicity were discussed by the Assembly at length and a resolution passed requesting the Council to consider the means of securing greater publicity for their discussions and decisions. Along the same line the Assembly requested the publication of all documents in regard to the Polish-Lithuanian dispute, which was immediately done.

The Council gave considerable thought to what steps could be taken to secure greater publicity for its proceedings. It came to the conclusion that the system of admitting the public to the final meeting of the Session for the purpose of hearing the accumulated reports and decisions was not satisfactory. It felt that it would be detrimental to its work to throw open all its meetings, but it expressed its intention of holding public meetings whenever this course seemed advisable.

The plan now adopted is to publish each decision as it is reached, to issue comprehensive summaries of the discussions in the same way, and subsequently to publish in volume form, available for the public, the complete Procès-Verbaux of the whole of the debates.

OTHER MATTERS.

The Council also considered the question of the situation of the inhabitants of Eastern Galicia, the question of the expulsion of Polish Jews from Austria, the situation of Russian refugees in Europe, the organisation of intellectual work, the protection of minorities in Finland and Albania, etc.